

Eden and their surrounding regions, the Governor has formed a state-level Rapid Response Team charged with helping displaced workers and affected communities to recover from the Pillowtex closing. The state team, led by N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Jim Fain, will be made up of high ranking officials from the Division of Employment and Training, the Employment Security Commission, the North Carolina Community College System office, and the Department of Health and Human Services. The team will work with all partners including Pillowtex management, union representatives, other state agencies, local community colleges, local government, and other local service providers. This same assistance has been provided in other communities experiencing significant job losses.

The Governor has directed the team to:

- Ensure that displaced Pillowtex workers are certified as “trade affected” so that they are eligible for additional federal assistance under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act, including:
  - additional weeks of unemployment insurance coverage for workers in training programs
  - health care assistance through a tax credit or partial payment of insurance premiums
  - expanded assistance for older workers
- Maximize available resources from federal, state and local levels and ensure that they are used in the most efficient, effective manner possible;
- Ensure that dislocated workers and their families receive available income supports, job training and placement, and other services as quickly and as easily as possible;
- Encourage and support the work of community-based organizations and community volunteers who are ready to assisting Pillowtex workers and their families in vital ways; and
- Work intensively with economic development officials in communities hit by the Pillowtex closing to attract new employers to the region and strengthen existing businesses.

[A more detailed version of the state plan is attached.](#)